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PTO/SB/30 (10-01)

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL		Application Number	09/976,443
Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450		Filing date	October 12, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Ronald E. Sloan
		Art Unit	3628
		Examiner Name	T.M. Harbeck
		Attorney Docket Number	60021-376002

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114

- a. Previously submitted
 - i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on July 18, 2006.
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
 - ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____.
- b. Enclosed
 - i. Amendment(s)/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other Petition for One Month Extension.

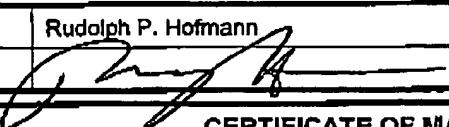
2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103@ for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
- b. Other _____

3. Fees

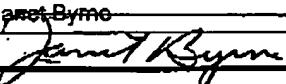
- a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901.
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) – Large entity fee \$790. ✓
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17).
 - iii. Other _____.
- b. Check in the amount of \$_____ enclosed.
- c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Rudolph P. Hofmann	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	38,187
Signature		Date:	August 24, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Janet Byne
Signature	
Date:	August 24, 2006

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